

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Barry D. Kurtz et al.

Serial No.: 09/888,659

Filed: June 25, 2001

Docket No.: 10003919-1

Title: DOCUMENT SERVICES MANAGEMENT INCLUDING AVAILABILITY REPORTING OF
DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION SERVICES**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 1, 3, 4, 15, and 17 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 5, 6, 9, 12, 18, 19, 21, and 23 as follows:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 4A~~ method, comprising:
registering document distribution services of a plurality of document distribution
providers, the document distribution services including print services, electronic mail
services, and publishing services;
identifying at least one resource of the document distribution providers for performing
each of the document distribution services, including defining at least one attribute of the at
least one resource;
distributing documents with the document distribution services, including receiving
and processing document distribution requests each specifying at least one of the document
distribution services; and
monitoring an availability of the at least one resource for each of the document
distribution services, including recording a real-time status and a historical status of the at
least one attribute of the at least one resource,
wherein identifying the at least one resource includes identifying at least one printer
which provides the print services, wherein defining the at least one attribute includes defining
at least one printer attribute of the at least one printer, and wherein recording the real-time
status and the historical status wherein recording the status of the at least one printer attribute

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~~of the at least one printer~~ includes recording at least one of a quantity level of print medium ~~for the at least one printer~~, a status of a print media path ~~of the at least one printer~~, a quantity level of marking material ~~for the at least one printer~~, and a status of an input/output connection of the at least one printer.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~4~~5, wherein identifying at least one resource for performing each of the document distribution services includes identifying at least one electronic mail application which provides the electronic mail services.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein defining at least one attribute of the at least one resource includes defining at least one electronic mail attribute of the at least one electronic mail application, and wherein recording the real-time status and the historical status of the at least one attribute of the at least one resource includes recording a status of the at least one electronic mail attribute of the at least one electronic mail application.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein recording the status of the at least one electronic mail attribute of the at least one electronic mail application includes recording at least one of a status of a communication link of the at least one electronic mail application, a transfer rate of the at least one electronic mail application, and a delivery success rate of the at least one electronic mail application.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~4~~5, wherein identifying at least one resource for performing each of the document distribution services includes identifying at least one print service provider which provides the publishing services.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein defining at least one attribute of the at least one resource includes defining at least one print service provider attribute of the at least one print service provider, and wherein recording the real-time status and the historical status of the at least one attribute of the at least one resource includes recording a

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status of the at least one print service provider attribute of the at least one print service provider.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein recording the status of the at least one print service provider attribute of the at least one print service provider includes recording at least one of a consumables inventory of the at least one print service provider and a lead time of the at least one print service provider.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~15~~, further comprising:
generating an availability report of the document distribution services, including compiling the real-time status and the historical status of the at least one attribute of the at least one resource for each of the document distribution services.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
distributing the availability report of the document distribution services to a system administrator.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of managing document distribution services, the method comprising:

registering document distribution services of a plurality of document distribution providers, the document distribution services including print services, electronic mail services, and publishing services;

identifying at least one resource of the document distribution providers for performing each of the document distribution services, including defining at least one attribute of the at least one resource;

distributing documents with the document distribution services, including receiving and processing document distribution requests each specifying at least one of the document distribution services; and

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monitoring an availability of the at least one resource for each of the document distribution services, including recording a real-time status and a historical status of the at least one attribute of the at least one resource,

wherein identifying the at least one resource includes identifying at least one printer which provides the print services, wherein defining the at least one attribute includes defining at least one printer attribute of the at least one printer, and wherein recording the real-time status and the historical status includes recording at least one of a quantity level of print medium, a status of a print media path, a quantity level of marking material, and a status of an input/output connection of the at least one printer.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 17~~ A system, comprising:
a document distribution system controller configured to have document distribution services of a plurality of document distribution providers registered therewith, the document distribution services including print services, electronic mail services, and publishing services; and
an availability analysis system associated with the document distribution system controller and adapted to monitor an availability of the document distribution services,
wherein the document distribution system controller is adapted to receive and process document distribution requests each specifying at least one of the document distribution services, and the document distribution services are adapted to distribute documents based on the requests, and
wherein the availability analysis system is adapted to record a real-time status and a historical status of at least one attribute of at least one resource of the document distribution providers for each of the document distribution services.

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wherein the availability analysis system is adapted to record a status of at least one printer attribute of at least one printer configured to provide the print services, wherein the availability analysis system is adapted to record including at least one of a quantity level of print medium for the at least one printer, a status of a print media path of the at least one printer, a quantity level of marking material for the at least one printer, and a status of an input/output connection of the at least one printer.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~15~~18, wherein the availability analysis system is adapted to record a status of at least one electronic mail attribute of at least one electronic mail application configured to provide the electronic mail services.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the availability analysis system is adapted to record at least one of a status of a communication link of the at least one electronic mail application, a transfer rate of the at least one electronic mail application, and a delivery success rate of the at least one electronic mail application.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~15~~18, wherein the availability analysis system is adapted to record a status of at least one print service provider attribute of at least one print service provider configured to provide the publishing services.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the availability analysis system is adapted to record at least one of a consumables inventory of the at least one print service provider and a lead time of the at least one print service provider.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~15~~18, wherein the availability analysis system is adapted to compile the real-time status and the historical status of the at least one attribute of the at least one resource for each of the document distribution services and generate an availability report of the document distribution services.

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24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the availability analysis system is adapted to distribute the availability report of the document distribution services to a system administrator.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, further comprising:
a communication network configured to link the document distribution system controller and the system administrator, wherein the availability analysis system is adapted to distribute the availability report of the document distribution services to the system administrator via the document distribution system controller and the communication network.